

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 151

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PN, PP

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL VIEWS ON POLITICAL REALIGNMENT

REF: PORT MORESBY 130

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH POLOFF AUGUST 27, SPEAKER OF HOUSE AND PANGU CHIEFTAIN BARRY HOLLOWAY ACCEPTED VIEW CITED REFTEL THAT MOMIS AND KAPUTIN PROBABLY BEHIND ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTRY PARTY AND THAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE NEW CPC BASED PARTY.

2. COUNTRY PARTY HAS NINE MEMBERS INCLUDING LEADER SINAKE GIREGIRE, WHO ACCORDING HOLLOWAY NOW SAID TO BE MORE WARY OF MOMIS AND KPAUTIN OVERTURES TO FORM COUNTRY-CPC BASED PARTY ALLIANCE FOR FEAR THAT GIREGIRE'S INFLUENCE WOULD BE COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY THEM.

3. IN RESPONSE QUERY RE POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING HOLLOWAY PROVIDED ROUGH FIGURES ON EFFECT TWO NEW PARTIES ON COALITION'S MAJORITY. PRIOR ESTABLISHMENT COUNTRY PARTY, COALITION COULD MUSTER 57 VOTES TO OPPOSITION 43. COALITION MAJORITY COULD BE REDUCED TO 54 IF ALL COUNTRY PARTY MEMBERS VOTE AGAINST IT. IF CPC PARTY ESTABLISHED, IN THEORY, SIX MORE VOTES COULD BE LOST TO COALITION LEAVING IT WITH 48 VOTE MINORITY.

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4. HE BELIEVES THAT UP TO PERHAPS TWENTY-SIX UNITED PARTY MEMBERS WOULD CROSS AISLE TO SUPPORT SOMARE ON KEY CONSTITUTIONAL, DEVELOPMENT AND LAND ISSUES IF COALITION BECOMES MINORITY. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY HE AGREED THIS WOULD REPRESENT A DE FACTO RESTRUCTURING OF THE POLITICAL ORDER EVEN IF THE UNITED PARTY WAS NOT BROUGHT INTO THE COALITION.

5. REFTTEL INDICATED UNITED PARTY VIEW THAT CHANCES WERE EVEN THAT SOMARE WOULD BRING UP INTO COALITION BY END NEXT HOUSE SESSION. HOLLOWAY STATES CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE RELUCTANT TO DO SO FEARING DIVISION OF HOUSE INTO MODERATE AND RADICAL FACTIONS. SOMARE'S VIEW IS THAT RADICALS ALWAYS WIN IN DEVELOPING STATES.

6. COMMENT: UNITED PARTY MEMBERS ARE EVIDENTLY CONVINCED THAT THE COALITION IS SLOWLY ERODING AND THAT AT SOME POINT SOON SOMARE WILL BE FORCED TO BRING THEM INTO THE GOVERNMENT. THE SITUATION HERE IS SUFFICIENTLY FLUID, HOWEVER, THAT SOMARE MAY HAVE OTHER OPTIONS. HOLLOWAY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT SOMARE WILL REINSTATE KAPUTIN MINISTER OF JUSTICE AFTER THIS SESSION OF HOUSE ENDS. THIS COULD DEFUSE CPC PLAN ESTABLISH NEW PARTY, OR ITS IMPACT IF ESTABLISHED. SOMARE COULD ALSO ATTEMPT CO-OPT COUNTRY PARTY BY PROVIDING MINISTRY TO GIREGIRE. WHILE MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF POLITICAL ORDER REMAINS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, IT IS BY NO MEANS A CERTAINTY, AND WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT BE PERMANENT.
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